

MONTHLY SORTIE GOALS	
961st Airborne Air Control Squadron	
Monthly flying-hour contract	116.0
Hours flown	129.9
Monthly offset	13.9
33rd Rescue Squadron	
Monthly flying-hour contract	16.5
Hours flown	21.8
Monthly offset	5.3
909th Air Refueling Squadron	
Monthly flying-hour contract	63.0
Hours flown	83.6
Monthly offset	20.6
44th Fighter Squadron	
Monthly sortie contract	41.0
Sorties flown	29.0
Monthly offset	-12.0
67th Fighter Squadron	
Monthly sortie contract	43.0
Sorties flown	19.0
Monthly offset	-24.0
Source: 18th MOS/MXOOP, as of Nov. 22	

THE


KADENA


SHOGUN




Vol. 18, No. 48
Kadena Air Base, Japan
Friday, Dec. 10, 2004

WEEKEND WEATHER


TODAY: Partly Cloudy
NE to E winds @ 10-15 knots
High: 75 Low: 59


SATURDAY: Partly Cloudy
NE winds @ 10-15 knots
High: 73 Low: 55


SUNDAY: Mostly Cloudy
NE winds @ 10 knots
High: 73 Low: 55

FRIDAY MORNING'S
COMMUNITY BANK
EXCHANGE RATES
BUYING: \$1=¥101 SELLING: ¥106=\$1

Mother Nature strikes again

Tropical Storm Nanmadol alters weekend plans



Staff Sgt. John Castle, 44th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, tows an F-15 Eagle into a hardened shelter in preparation for Typhoon Nanmadol Dec. 3. Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
18th Wing Public Affairs

Mother Nature decided to 'rain-in' on Kadena's parade Friday as the remnants of Tropical Storm Nanmadol cancelled half of the events planned for this year's Tinsel Town -- including the holiday parade.

The storm, which was forecasted to blast Okinawa with near-typhoon strength winds Sunday, dumped more than 1.5 inches of rain with 46-knot (approximately 52 mph) wind gusts.

As Typhoon Nanmadol approached Okinawa from the southwest Dec. 3, the 18th Wing commander also ordered 2004's tenth preemptive evacuation -- twice the yearly average -- of Kadena's larger aircraft, and sheltering of F-15 aircraft.

"The decision to evacuate the heavy aircraft from Kadena was made [to avoid] the risk of damaging

the aircraft," explained Lt. Col. John Quinn, 18th Operations Group deputy commander for heavy aircraft. "Each aircraft type went to several bases in order to continue their respective missions while off-island."

In less than 24 hours after the evacuation order was given, all Kadena aircraft were secured.

"Team Kadena performed magnificently in the face of short-notice severe weather in order to either shelter, generate or launch Kadena aircraft," said Col. Mark Fitzgerald, 18th OG deputy commander. "We continued our 100 percent safety record while working in windy, hazardous conditions to preserve the [region's] combat capability."

Early Saturday afternoon, 18th Services officials made the decision to close Tinsel Town.

But in the end, Okinawa escaped a fierce encounter with Mother Nature as Typhoon Nanmadol quickly broke up before reaching the island.

Typhoon Nanmadol was the 14th storm system to affect Kadena this year. It was also the first storm to affect Okinawa since typhoon season officially ended last month.

According to Tech. Sgt. Carlos Erhardt, a Kadena weather forecaster, typhoons in December are a rarity.

"We haven't had a December storm in the four years that I've been stationed here," he said.

Although Okinawa received the blunt side of Typhoon Nanmadol, residents in the Philippines did not get so lucky.

The typhoon passed over the northeast coast of the Philippines with winds gusting to 120 knots (approximately 138 mph). According to media reports, more than 600 people were killed and hundreds remain missing after massive landslides.

Some 18th Wing Airmen are currently in the Philippines assisting recovery efforts.

Air Force Portal becomes new Kadena homepage

By Capt. Carlos Diaz
18th Wing Public Affairs

Imagine not having to remember 20 different user names and passwords when trying to access your records, decorations and other important information about the Air Force.

This idea will become a reality later this month when the Air Force Portal becomes the new default Internet homepage for the 18th Wing Dec. 31.

With just one user name and password users will be able to access a myriad of services from only one web site.

In an information technology initiatives memo, Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John P. Jumper asked that all airmen sign up for an Air Force Portal account as soon as possible.

"The Air Force Portal will be the airman's interface to all services and information needed to perform his or her job," the memo stated.

Among the applications available on the portal are virtual out-processing, retraining vulnerability lists and the Virtual Military Personnel Flight among many others.

"The Air Force Portal website will become the default homepage in the Internet Explorer web browser," said Capt. Brad Pyburn, 18th Communications Squadron Deputy Commander.

"This is a requirement mandated by Air Force Headquarters and PACAF, and will provide every Airman the advantage a single access point to Air Force web sites and other services," said Captain Pyburn.

Officials say that one of the key benefits of the portal will be the single user login. Once the user logs in, the portal itself authenticates the user into all of the many associated applications.

To register...

Airmen may register for Air Force Portal access by logging onto the Web site at www.my.af.mil and clicking on the registration link.



Lived, learned, written down

Colonel passes on words of wisdom to Airmen

By Col. Gordon Hammock
18th Wing Judge Advocate General

We all learn things every day, but the chances of actually internalizing, applying and perhaps most importantly, passing on those lessons depends on what you do with them.

My thought is that you must have a method, no matter how simple, by which you hang onto those lessons for future retrieval and use.

For example, I put my lessons into a slideshow.

When you hear or see something really good, or really bad for that matter, do you write it down, or does it simply fade from your memory banks within a few days?

Over the years, I've collected many war stories and words of wisdom that I've tried to remember and apply. Here are just a few that I've written down and would like to share with you.

□My dad once said: "Do what you love, the rest will come."

In short, you need to understand yourself and go where your dreams and talents take you. A good bit of unhappiness results from people plodding

away in the wrong 'field.'

□My grandfather told me: "If you're not moving forward, you're moving back."

We all need goals and we need a strategy to reach that objective.

□Mr. Arthur, my 10th grade English teacher, had a clock on the wall that was covered with a sign that said: "Time is passing, are you?"

This was a good reminder for us to do our best to pass the class.

□"Never put bad things in writing," my mom said. Another good rule of thumb is that if you must put bad things in writing, be 100% certain that you are right.

A thoughtless word spoken can be much more easily forgiven and forgotten than those etched in print. And in these days of e-mail, the chances of somebody you didn't anticipate seeing what you write is directly proportional to the unkind nature of what you've written. If it's unpleasant, I suggest you say it in person or by the phone.

□One day I came home from work grouchy after a really hard day and started taking it out on my wife. She turned to me and said, "I'm not responsi-

ble for your feelings."

What she said hit me like a bucket of cold water. She was right. Our attitude is our choice. And our attitude, whether good or bad, passes on to those around us. Carry around a good attitude and chances are you will meet other people with good attitudes.

□"Doing it right the first time takes a lot less time than doing it over."

This is a lesson I've sadly learned and re-learned myself. To that I would add: "Don't build on error," which I learned from Col. Jena Rueth, a former boss. The only way to fix something that is broken is to go back to the spot where you took the wrong fork in the road. If you want to save time, you have to spend time getting it right up front. The old staff motto of "Action passed is action completed," is not the right way to look at a tasker or project.

These are just a few of the lessons I've learned throughout the years.

I encourage you to develop your own way to write down the lessons that you learn. Doing so will help you remember those lessons you've learned and help you become a good teacher as

ACTION LINES

E-mail: 18wg.cchotline@kadena.af.mil



Brig. Gen. Jan-Marc Jous
18th Wing commander

The 18th Wing is very interested in ideas that can make Kadena an even better place to live, work and play. If you have a concern that you have been unable to resolve through normal chains of command, then we'll look into it. Although not required, it's better to give commanders, first sergeants or the agencies with which you have the concern the opportunity to correct the situation first. When that fails, send us an e-mail. Include your name and telephone number so someone can get back to you, and a brief summary of your concern.

Club cards and services

Some friends and I went to play bingo at the Rocker NCO Club one evening, and found out that one of my friends -- who did not have a club card because she's not interested in owning another credit card for personal reasons -- was not allowed to play bingo with us. The customer service people said due to a contract they have with the bank, the credit card is the only way to get a membership.

We asked if we could sign her on as a guest and they explained only local nationals, or non-valid ID card holders can be guests. Consequently, my friend was unable to play bingo with us. I know some people have club cards but did not have to get the credit cards. How do we go about getting one?

My second concern is, why isn't there some kind of agreement with the club to let people without club cards play bingo and enjoy other activities. A plan can be worked out for non-members to have to pay extra fees.

Since my friend is a valid ID card

holder that is just trying to keep a hold on her finances, why can't she be entitled to activities at the club?

Thanks for your inquiry. Your friend is very welcome to join the club and obtain a "proprietary" card, which is not a credit card, and can only be used inside the club. Regarding your second concern, club directives do not allow people that are eligible for membership to be a guest. In other words, if you are eligible to be a member, then you must join to participate in "members-only" programs. Club directives also require us to have Members-Only programs to add value to membership. These include bingo, as well as most of the entertainment programs, complimentary meals, and special membership appreciation nights. The members-only programs enhance the value of club membership by providing exclusive benefits not available to non-members. Air Force clubs exist primarily for club members. Non-members may patronize club dining facilities by paying the regular menu price; however, participation in members-only programs is restricted to Club members.



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SHOGUN WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Staff Sgt. William Robert Boyd

18th Munitions Squadron NCO in-charge of Munitions Storage Dispatch

Hometown: Winnsboro, Texas

Reason for nomination: Sergeant Boyd's organizational skills and dedication to the mission keeps the squadron combat ready. He is a true reflection of Air Force Core Values.

Time at Kadena: 2 years, 3 months

Editor's note: Shogun Warriors are selected by unit leaders for their outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the Kadena mission. To nominate someone, send the name of your nominee to your unit commander or senior enlisted leaders.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE: Did you know -- The average body metabolizes alcohol at about one drink per hour. Coffee, food, and exercise won't sober you up, only time will.

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIP: Air dry the dishes instead of having the dishwasher pump hot air over them. Either choose the no-heat drying option of just turn off the dishwasher after the end of the cycle rinse.

ENROLLING YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL: The District Registrar asks incoming parents that have school aged children to wait to enroll their child(ren) in school until after attending the housing briefing so that the student will be enrolled in the correct zoned school. Call 634-8995 prior to enrolling your child(ren) in school.

FREE E-4 AND BELOW CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Kadena First Sergeants Group is sponsoring a unaccompanied Airman's Christmas Party at 6 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Rocker NCO Club. Advance sign-ups are required, call your first sergeant.

VOLUNTEER FOR HOOPS AGAINST HUNGER: Help the youth of Kadena and the local community by volunteering Dec. 20-23 at the Hoops Against Hunger Basketball Clinic. Volunteers are needed to check kids in, pass out T-shirts, and collect canned goods. Admission for the clinic

Mind your table manners!



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

Members of Airmen Committed to Excellence (right counter clockwise), Airman 1st Class Aisha Kane, 18th Medical Operations Squadron and Rafal Rudzinski, 18th Component Maintenance Squadron, and Airman Basic Adam Bennett, 18th Munitions Squadron, participate in a demonstration for dinner party etiquette during a professional development seminar recently. ACE meeting topics vary from speech enhancement to learning about protocol, as demonstrated here by Cynthia Rambo, chief of 18th Wing protocol.

is two canned goods. Call Master Sgt. Hamlin at 634-8011 to sign up.

OFF LIMITS: The Kadena Combat Arms Firing Range, near Gate 3, is off limits to unauthorized personnel. Trespassing is illegal and extremely dangerous

when the range is in use. For entry, contact range personnel at 634-2783, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PWOC CHRISTMAS TEA: The Kadena Protestant Women of the Chapel will be host-

ing a Christmas Tea Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Chapel 1. All women are invited to attend and enjoy tea, desserts, and fellowship as a preview to a Bible studies class that will be offered in January.

POST OFFICE CLOSURES: The Kadena Post Office (PSC 80) will be closed Dec. 25, 31, and Jan. 1. On these days the Air Mail Terminal will be closed and no inbound or outbound mail will be processed. Customer service hours have been increased to include parcel pickup on Sundays and parcel mailing on Mondays through Dec. 24

MARATHON: Applications for the 2005 10-kilometer road race and Okinawa Marathon Feb. 27, must be turned in by Jan. 6, 2005. For more information, call the Risner Gym at 634-5128.

BLOOD DRIVE: The Camp Lester U.S. Navy Hospital is sponsoring blood drives Dec. 16-17. Contact Tracy Parmer at 643-7710 for more information, or e-mail parmerct@oki10.med.navy.mil.

- Dec. 16--8 a.m. to noon at the 18th Munitions Squadron, Bldg. 4107.
- Dec. 17--7 to 10 a.m. at the 18th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Bldg. 3384.

GATE 1 CONSTRUCTION: Gate 1 will close in February 2005 and Gate 4 will open. Officials still expect renovations to be completed by February 2006.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower
1st Lt. Kevin Dormer, 67th Fighter Squadron pilot, secures his wife Angela into the back seat of an F-15 Eagle as part of the 67th FS Red Carpet and Career Day Dec. 3. Families were able to spend the day together and see what they do day-to-day as well as receive a high-speed taxi ride down the runway.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower
1st Lt. Kevin Dormer, 67th Fighter Squadron pilot, helps Linda Boren, wife of Tech. Sgt. Todd Boren, 67th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, put on the required gear for riding in an F-15 Eagle as part of the Red Carpet and Career Day Dec. 3.

Rolling out the Red Carpet

67 spouses get taxi ride on F-15 Eagle with 67 Fighter Squadron pilots

By Senior Airman Anna Fitzhorn
18th Wing Public Affairs

Questions like: "honey can you check the radar for bogeys?" and "are you going to check the hydraulic system on the landing gear before you pick the kids at school?" might not be part of a typical conversation, but at the Red Carpet and Career Day held by the 67th Fighter Squadron and Aircraft Maintenance Unit Dec. 3, that may have been the case.

Airmen from the 67th FS and the 67th AMU brought their spouses to work to show their loved ones what they do at work on a daily basis.

Capt. Tony Hebert, 67th FS executive officer and fighter pilot, said

the Red Carpet day was a bring your spouse to work day, where they could spend time together at work and see what their spouses do day-to-day.

"More than 60 spouses who visited the squadron had the opportunity to wear night vision goggles and receive a high-speed taxi ride in the world's greatest air superiority fighter (WGASF), the F-15," said Captain Hebert.

Angela Dormer, wife of 1st Lt. Kevin Dormer, 67th FS pilot, said she thought the Red Carpet Day was a great idea because she got to ride in a jet with her husband for the first time.

"My husband has been flying for about a year now and I've never

been able to see what he does all day," she said. "So this was great."

Tech. Sgt. Todd Boren, 67th AMU section chief crew chief, and his wife Linda, were out-processing the squadron when they heard about the Red Carpet Day. "We've been here five years and she's never been able to get an F-15 ride," he said. "I think it's great that she could finally get in the jet and see what it does before we PCS."

"I'm psyched," she said with a grin before the ride.

Captain Hebert said the day was so successful that the unit plans to hold another next year. "We're a very social squadron and like to get the wives involved as much as we can," he said.

JASDF cadets visit Kadena's aircraft



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

1st Lt. McKay Morgan, 909th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker co-pilot, discusses refueling operations with Japan Air Self Defense Force cadets Dec. 1. The JASDF cadets took a tour of Kadena's various aircraft and received mission briefings during a visit to the base. All potential JASDF officers begin their careers as enlisted non-commissioned officers, and depending on their accomplishments are chosen to become candidate officers.

KADENA SPOTLIGHTS

Officials recently announced the following 5th Air Force Award nominees to compete for the U.S. Air Force Annual Safety Awards:

Chief of Staff Individual Safety Award - Ron Kirby, 18th Wing

Koren Kolligian Jr., trophy - Maj. Anthony Coleman, 909th Air Refueling Squadron

Explosive Safety Outstanding Achievement Award - Master Sgt. Patrick Mallard, 18th Wing

Chief of Safety Aircrew of Distinction Award - 909th ARS, Capt. Jason Aguilera, Capt. Douglas Dillon, 1st Lt. Patrick Smith, Master Sgt. Steven Flax, Staff Sgt. William Gissendanner, Senior Airman David Thao

Aviation Well Done Award - Capt. Jeremy Wieder, 67th FS

Weapons Well Done Award- Tech. Sgt. Glen Caron, 18th CMS

Congratulations to **Roslyn Snyder** and **Tomi Tamanaha** for winning the Headquarters PACAF Comptroller Quarterly Award.

Congratulations to the **18th Services Squadron** for winning the following PACAF awards: Readiness Program; Child Development Centers; Officers' Club; Information, Ticket and Travel Program.

CNN highlights Kadena maintainers



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

Jiro Mishina, CNN senior cameraman, films 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron troops working on an F-15 Eagle Dec. 2. The troops being filmed are Senior Airman James Blackwell (center), F-15 Eagle phase inspection member; (group from left to right) Staff Sgt. Kyle Wright, structures craftsman; Staff Sgt. Andrew Stevenson, phase inspection member; and Airman 1st Class Devon Lee, structures apprentice. CNN was filming the troops for a spot on CNN's American Morning Show.

Maintenance shirt earns Bronze Star

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
18th Wing Public Affairs

A master sergeant from the 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was recently awarded the Bronze Star for his role supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

When Master Sgt. Mark Bowlin packed his bags for a deployment to Southwest Asia in Nov. 2002, neither he nor the 120 people he worked with, knew that they would be packing their bags for more than just one trip.

In the four months Sergeant Bowlin was deployed as a production superintendent for a C-130 maintenance unit, his crew had to relocate three times – the last being to a different base in a completely different environment.

"It was hard," explained Sergeant Bowlin, a 19-year Air Force veteran. "We had to move our maintenance and operations command facilities to allow construction [at our first base] in late December. Then a couple weeks after that, we got word that we would be completely relocated to Kyrgyzstan."

Adding to the complication of moving Airmen from a desert region to a cold mountainous region, Sergeant Bowlin was getting used to being the unit's new first sergeant, after his predecessor



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Mark Bowlin, 718th Aircraft Maintenance, poses for a photo while deployed at his first base in Southwest Asia Nov. 2002. Sergeant Bowlin was recently presented the Bronze Star for motivating and helping his Airmen through harsh conditions.

sor went home for medical concerns.

"We were only given a couple days to move and standup operations at the new location," he said. "When the [initial] team arrived, we were given tents that were poorly maintained. Many did not have heat."

That's when Sergeant Bowlin stepped up and took care of his Airmen. Besides standing up the maintenance and operations area for critical C-130 airlift missions, he also helped equip his troops who lacked proper cold weather

gear for the harsh winter conditions.

"The troops had little or no cold-weather gear," he explained. "Our maintainers were suffering pretty badly. When we arrived, there was about a foot of snow on the ground and the temperature remained well below freezing."

The dedicated first sergeant worked tirelessly with his home station and local supply chief to muster cold weather equipment for his Airmen, but not without enduring some hardships first.

"The maintainers had to work incredible hours in blizzard conditions to get aircraft ready for missions the following day," he said. "But they never lost a mission in spite of all the difficulties."

Out of the 1,774 sorties flown during Sergeant Bowlin's deployment, his crew maintained a 99 percent maintenance reliability rate on a 30-year-old airframe with a "flawless safety record."

As the first C-130 maintenance crew set up in Kyrgyzstan, Sergeant Bowlin and his troops successfully delivered more than 8,000 troops and 4,300 tons of equipment throughout the region.

"The 120 people I served with were one hell of a team and I'm very proud to have been associated with them," Sergeant Bowlin said reflecting on his Bronze Star presentation. "It's a great honor."

Dozens of Airmen face retraining into new specialties

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - Many Airmen have taken their careers in their own hands by volunteering to change career fields or separate under the initial phase of the Air Force's FY05 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program.

In Phase I of the program, Air Force officials notified more than 3,000 Airmen selected as vulnerable to retrain and asked them to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to retrain into.

As part of NCORP Phase II, 668 active-duty Airmen have been targeted for involuntary retraining into another Air Force specialty chosen for them by the Air Force Personnel Center enlisted retraining staff here.

Phase II began Dec. 2 and will run through Feb. 28.

Vulnerability listings by grade and Air Force Specialty Code are posted on the Web and will be updated weekly on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Retraining/retraining.htm>.

Airmen interested in more details about the program can contact the military personnel flight.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

LIFT: Michael McPherson supports his partner Michelle Morrison in an act called "Statue" during the Nutcracker Cirque.

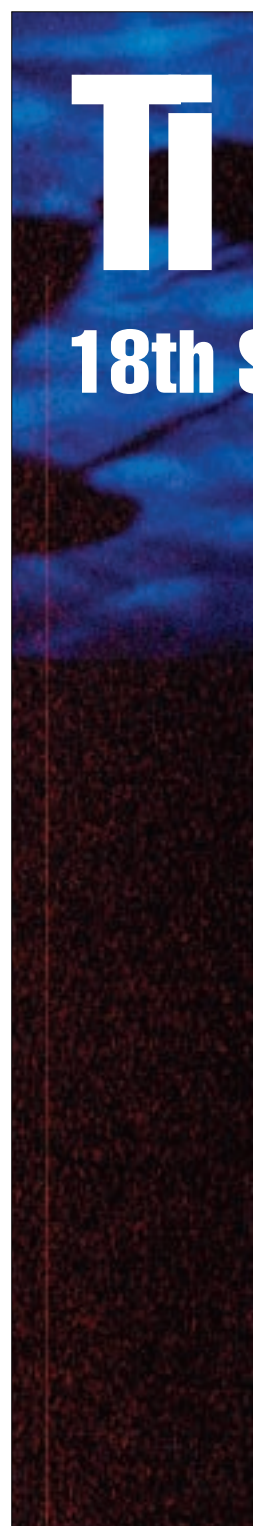
SANTA: Marina Benavides, 9-month-old daughter of Sonya Benavides, Department of Defense kindergarten teacher, sits on Santa Claus's lap during a photo session in the Schilling parking lot Saturday.

NUTCRACKER DOLL: Michelle Morrison, who played the part of Clara in the Nutcracker Cirque, receives the nutcracker from her uncle for Christmas.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

Brothers Logan (right), 3, and Larry Mercier III, 6, sons of Capt. Larry Mercier Jr., 18th Contracting Squadron, take their turn on the rides at the Tinsel Town Festival Saturday.

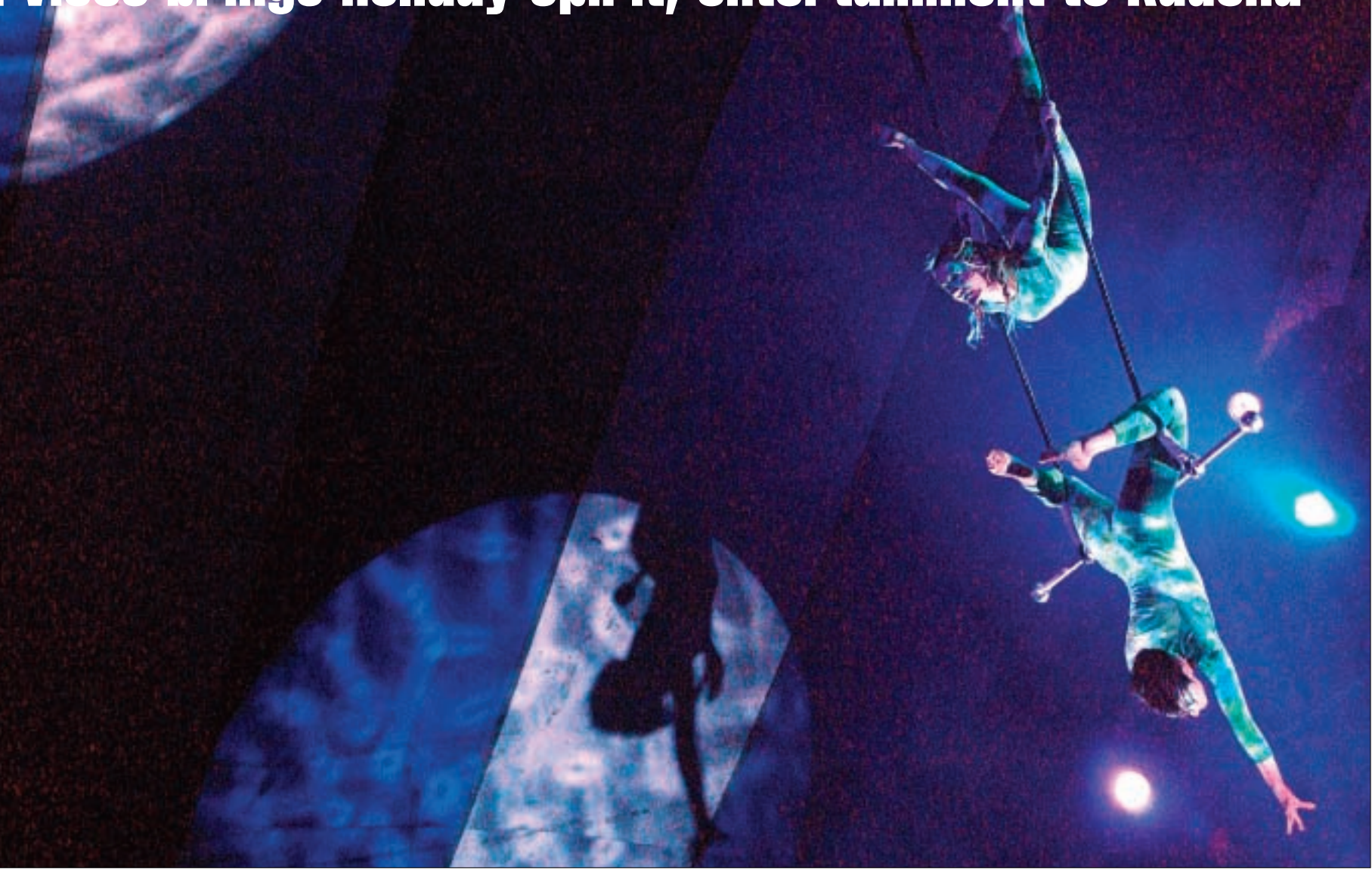


Cherisse Pawlak (bottom) last weekend. More continued performance



Tinsel Town 2004

Services brings holiday spirit, entertainment to Kadena



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower and Allison Newbauer perform on the trapeze as part of the Nutcracker Cirque during this year's Tinsel Town festival, held in the Schilling Community Center parking lot. About 5,500 people showed up to watch the Nutcracker Cirque and participate in other events before being shutdown due to bad weather Saturday. The Nutcracker Cirque will return to the Keystone Theater until Monday evening.



Photos by Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower
RIBBON: Michelle Morrison weaves her way on silks during the Nutcracker Cirque.

BICYCLE: Matthew Roben demonstrates his bicycle riding expertise during the Nutcracker Cirque Dec. 2.

TRAIN: William Harton (right), 5, son of Marine 1st Lt. Andres Harton, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and other children ride the Mississippi Train during the Tinsel Town festival.



Okinawa Perspective

Compiled by staff reports

The following is a synopsis of articles that appeared recently in Japanese newspapers.

□ Okinawa Prefectural Police officials recently announced that more than 160 people had been cited for using cell phones while driving since Nov. 1. Officials also caught more than 150 drivers for other offenses while conducting another inspection late Dec. 2. Twenty-eight of the cases were driving under the influence. According to published reports, 5.4 percent of all traffic incidents in Okinawa were alcohol-related last year. The figure is three times Japan's national average.

□ The Japanese government has started discussions about allowing a woman to ascend to the Chrysanthemum throne since no male heirs have been born into the imperial family in almost 40 years.

□ Starting in April 2005, motorcyclists will be allowed to ride double on certain expressways. The new rule applies only to motorcyclists 20 years or older that have had a license for more than three years.

□ Three U.S. Marine CH-46 cargo helicopters and one KC-130 air refueling aircraft landed at Shimoji Airport, Miyako island Wednesday morning in support of a humanitarian mission to the Philippines. Local groups protested the arrival of the military aircraft, saying the Okinawa Prefectural government had only requested the airport be used in times of emergencies. The deputy of the Okinawa Governor's Executive Office telephoned the Marine Corps G-5 [strategic plans and policy directorate] to express regret over U.S. use of the airport, and to request that its use be limited. Nearly 170,000 people have been displaced by a Typhoon Nanmadol and follow-on rains, flooding and landslides in the Philippines. More than 1,000 are reported dead or missing.

□ Okinawa Prefectural Government officials plan to send "sympathy money" to the Philippines, which was hit by Typhoon Nanmadol last week. More than 1,600 Okinawan descendants live in the Philippines.



"Ask Eiko" is a forum for readers to ask Japanese cultural questions to Kadena's family support center's cultural awareness expert, Eiko Ishikawa. To submit a question, send an e-mail to ask.eiko@kadena.af.mil.

Q: I've been invited to attend a Japanese coworker's wedding. What are some things I should know about before attending?

A: I could literally fill pages with all the rules and things you could know. Our weddings involve so many different protocols and customs, including: protocols, business card exchange procedures, dining etiquette, degrees of bowing, and the list goes on. Please note that I said "could know" instead of "should know" because the truth is that while we do have lots of different rules, the true purpose of a wedding is to celebrate a new beginning and our weddings are really fun.

First off, when you are invited to a Japanese wedding, there is a good chance you are only being invited to the reception. If the wedding is being held in a chapel with a reception immediately following, then you are invited to both. However, many Japanese get married in a temple with only a few close friends and immediate family members present. If the invitation is for the evening, then it is probably just the reception. If it is in the morning or afternoon, it probably is for both. If you don't know which, then ask.

I'm going to work on the assumption that you are invited to the reception, since this is the most common situation. Here are some of the "should know" items.

1. Check the invitation closely. If it is addressed only to you, then only you are invited (not your spouse). This is considerably different than the American custom where you assume that if the invitee is married, the invitation automatically includes the spouse. Not so in

Japan. If it doesn't say Mr. and Mrs., then only the person named is invited.

2. Do RSVP right away, especially if you cannot attend. We operate on the assumption that if you do not RSVP, you are going to be there, and we will order food and return gifts based on the projected number of attendees.

3. Keep the invitation and any cards that may be included. At many weddings, the table assignment is identified by a Japanese character – such as those for luck, prosperity, crane, swan, etc. – and the invitation or the card will have that character on it so that you can find your assigned table.

4. Dress up. Wedding receptions are somewhat formal, gala affairs held in resort hotels or facilities built specifically to host weddings. Everyone puts on their "Sunday Best" clothes. Men typically wear suits; women wear dresses or dress suits. Although some of the older generation still frown on it, ladies pant suits are becoming accepted. Ladies – do not wear a white dress as that is reserved for the bride. Females should also not wear black. Men can wear dark suits, but not with a black tie.

5. Arrive slightly before the scheduled time so you have time to sign the guest register and leave your gift before moving to your table. When you arrive, there normally will be a table or two set up outside the entrance with young ladies serving as greeters. In most cases, there will be a tray (or two) on the table and one or more guest registers. The tray is where you place your gift. In the guest register, put your name and your address (and don't worry if you write it in English).

6. The gift you give is always money placed in a special congratulatory wedding envelope. How much money you put in the envelope depends on how close of friends you are with the wedding party. One of the Web sites I researched said the standard gift now is ¥10,000 per person invited. Family members and very close friends are expected to give much more. Don't buy the traditional American wedding gift unless your co-worker has requested.

CAUTION: There are many varieties of congratulatory wedding envelopes. As a general rule, the fancier the envelope, the more money is expected to be included. ¥10,000 might sound like a lot of money, but you are paying for your food, leaving a gift for the bride and groom, and you will be getting a return gift when you leave.

7. Have fun! Our wedding receptions have lots of events and audience participation. There should be programs at each place setting, but they will probably be printed only in Japanese. The congratulatory speeches in Japanese might bore you, but please don't show it. The speeches and some other commentary will go on throughout the meal. If you are worried about dining etiquette, just watch what others are doing and you'll be fine.

8. After the meal, various groups will perform skits, sing songs, and do other things – mostly poking fun at the bride and groom. Quite often, table groups will spontaneously decide to get into the act, so go with the flow and your hosts will really appreciate it. Don't worry about making a fool of yourself, but don't drink so much that you do.

9. You'll know when it is over because everyone will get up and get ready to leave. There will be lots of milling around as old friends meet once again. When you leave, the young ladies who greeted you on the way in will be passing out return gifts. Each

person gets a return gift, which could be anything from a nice towel set to some very elegant (and expensive) handmade items.

10. Arrive home alive! Alcohol probably will be served, including beer, wine, and Okinawan Sake (Awamori). If you plan on drinking, please plan in advance how to get home. We want you to enjoy your tour on Okinawa, so please do not drink and drive.

There are a number of other things I could cover, but if you have specific questions, stop by and see me at the Family Support Center, Building 99 on Kadena.



Air Force/Airman Heather Tower

Above are various wedding gift envelopes that are available at 100 yen stores.



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower

Dissecting science

Minami Holman, 6, daughter of Tech Sgt. Mitchell Holman, 390th Intelligence Squadron chief of financial management, and Taylor Fernandez, 8, daughter of Army Sgt. 1st Class Bernie Fernandez, 1st Special Forces Group medic, dissect owl pellets in the school library Nov. 23. The girls, who are in William Golden's first grade class and Marty Reinert's third grade class, partnered up to look for rodent bones that are inside the owl pellets. The class was held to help the students further explore biology.

Today

BATHHOUSE TOUR: Call ITT at **634-4322**.

KUMON MATH: Children ages five to 18 years can learn to excel in math and develop superior study habits from 3 to 5:40 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

WINTERWONDERLAND DANCE: Just because there is no snow, doesn't mean in Okinawa we don't celebrate the winter season. Youth Center members ages six to eight years can join the dance from 7 to 9 p.m. Call **634-0500** for more information.

JAPANESE ANTIQUES: Find Japanese dolls, Hina dolls, sake sets, carvings, and other Japanese antiques today at the Schilling Community Center.

HOME AND GIFT SALE: Find tableware, framed pictures, children's gifts, lamps, globes, and more today at the Schilling Community Center.

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Super Snacks and Blast from the Past from 5 to 7 p.m. and Coyote Ugly Night starts at 10 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Super Snacks from 5 to 7 p.m., Re-mix Fridays—all the best top 40 hits of today and years gone by—from 7 p.m. until closing.

Saturday

HOLIDAY WONDERLAND: Create

M O V I E S

Patrons should call Keystone Theater at 634-1869 or Butler Theater at 645-3465 to verify movie titles, showtimes and ratings.

Keystone Theater

- ▲ Today..... The Polar Express, G, 6 p.m.
After the Sunset, PG-13, 9 p.m.
- ▲ Saturday..... The Polar Express, G, noon
After the Sunset, PG-13, 4 p.m.
Shark Tale, PG, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Sunday..... Shark Tale, PG, noon
The Polar Express, G, 4 p.m.
After the Sunset, PG-13, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Monday..... Alexander, R, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Tuesday..... Alexander, R, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Wednesday.. Taxi, PG-13, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Thursday.... National Treasure, PG, 7 p.m.

Butler Theater

- ▲ Today..... Christmas with the Kranks, PG, 7 p.m.
Ladder 49, PG-13, 9 p.m.
- ▲ Saturday..... National Treasure, PG, 1 p.m.
Christmas with the Kranks, PG, 4 p.m.
Ladder 49, PG-13, 7 p.m.
Friday Night Lights, PG-13, 9 p.m.
- ▲ Sunday..... National Treasure, PG, 1 p.m.
Christmas with the Kranks, PG, 4 p.m.
Christmas with the Kranks, PG, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Monday..... Shark Tale, PG, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Tuesday..... Team America: World Police, R, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Wednesday.. Raise your Voice, PG, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Thursday.... Alexander, R, 7 p.m.

your own holiday ornaments and place them on the Youth Center Members Tree at the Youth Center from 2 to 5 p.m. Open to members ages six to 12 years. Call **634-0500** for more information.

YUI MONORAIL AND KOKUSAI STREET TOUR: Call ITT at **634-4322**.

BINGO: Join the Schilling Community Center for 10 games and lots of terrific prizes. Cards on sale at 1 p.m. and games begin at 2 p.m.

WINTERWONDERLAND DANCE: Just because there's no snow, doesn't mean Okinawa doesn't celebrate the winter season. Youth Center members ages six to eight years can join a dance from 7 to 9 p.m. Call **634-0500**.

FRESHWATER PEARLS FROM HONG KONG: Made to order freshwater pearls as well as a selection of pearls in all shapes and sizes, sterling silver, 14K gold, jade and more at the Schilling Community Center.

FINE ARTS EXHIBIT: Visit the Schilling Community Center where you can admire our talented local youth artists ages 6 to 18 years. An awards ceremony will take place at 10 a.m.

SAX, FLUTE, CLARINET LESSONS: One-hour sessions from 7 a.m. to noon at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

COLORAMA NINE-PIN NO TAP TOURNAMENT: Bowl three games and try your luck at winning money and other prizes at Emery Lanes. Colored pins are added for strikes worth dollars for certain color pin combinations. Register at 6 p.m.; bowling begins at 7 p.m. No fee to participate. Call **634-2290**.

TABLETOP WARRIORS CLUB: Join the Schilling Community Center for great tabletop gaming from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. If you're unsure how to play, we'll show you.

MACHINE PATCHWORK QUILTING CLASS: From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Coyote Ugly Night from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. in the lounge.

Sunday

TUNNEL RATS TOUR: Step back in history as we explore WWII caves used by Japanese soldiers in 1945. Call ITT at **634-4322**.

BANYAN TREE: Enjoy the biggest sporting events of the day from 4 to 7 p.m. followed by a Sunday special of ribs and fries from 7 to 9 p.m. on the patio. Top 30 Meltdown from 7 to 11 p.m.

RENT-A-LANE: Avoid the crowd Sunday mornings from 8 to 11 a.m. Up to five bowlers can rent a lane for just \$15 for three hours.

FINE ARTS EXHIBIT: Visit the Schilling Community Center where you can admire our talented local youth artists ages six to 18 years.

BREAKFAST BUFFET: Enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat breakfast Sunday mornings from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Morrell Room of the Rocker NCO Club. Cost: \$6.95 for members and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Children five to 12 years are \$3.95 for members, \$4.95 for nonmembers. Children under 5 years are free.

ROCKER COLLEGIATE GAME DAY: Root for your favorite college football team at the Rocker NCO Club starting at 7:30 a.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: All that Jazz from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. followed by Open Mic from 8 p.m. until closing.

Monday

FRESHWATER PEARLS FROM HONG KONG: Made to order freshwater pearls as well as a selection of pearls in all shapes and sizes, sterling silver, 14K gold, jade and more at the Schilling Community Center.

JAPANESE CONVERSATION: Adults can make friends with Okinawan neighbors by learning their customs, culture and language from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

MEGA 40-FRAME BOWLING TOURNAMENT: Sign up and try your chance at winning prizes and cash Dec. 20. Call **634-2290**.

CAKE DECORATING: Learn the techniques for mastering the basics of cake decoration from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Fifty cent hamburgers and hot dogs from 5 to 7 p.m. or until sold-out and Variety Dance Hits from 7 to 11 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Rock around the clock with C Note and rock music from 7 p.m. until closing.

Tuesday

TAI CHI CH'UAN: For ages 18 years and up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Rock night with DJ Mad Cap from 7 p.m. until closing and win cash prizes at a pool tournament starting at 8 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Crazy Karaoke from 8 to 11 p.m.

Wednesday

LOVE MOTEL TOUR: Call ITT at **634-4322**.

KUMON MATH: Children ages 5 to 18 years can learn how to excel in math and develop superior study habits from 3 to 5:40 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

JAPANESE CONVERSATION: Adults can make friends with Okinawan neighbors by learning their customs, culture and language from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

OKINAWA DANCE: Enhance your stay on Okinawa by learning traditional expressive dance forms unique to the island from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center.

SIGN UP FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS: Sign up for January's classes at the Kadena arts and crafts center. Call **634-1666**.

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Enjoy a complimentary buffet-style dinner with an eligible guest from 5 to 7 p.m. followed by Rock Night Banyan style featuring the best in local rock bands until 11 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Jazz from 5 to 8 p.m. followed by Old School music from 8 p.m. until closing.

NEW YEARS EVE (BANYAN): Enjoy a Mardi Gras Theme night with heavy hors d'oeuvres at the Banyan Tree Club. Lounge opens at 7 p.m., ballroom opens at 9 p.m. Ticket sales can be purchased at the cashier's cage; members \$10, nonmembers \$15.

NEW YEARS EVE (ROCKER): Attend the New Year's Eve Island Paradise Theme Party and Super Ladies Night extravaganza and enjoy dinner from 7 to 9 p.m. and a breakfast buffet from 12:30 to 1:30 a.m. Tickets can be purchased beginning today at the cashier's cage; \$30 for members, \$35 for nonmembers.

NEW YEARS EVE (OFFICERS): Enjoy a fabulous New Year's Eve dinner buffet at the Kadena Officers Club in the Kudaka Dining area starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by live entertainment throughout the evening. Tickets purchased today will be \$15 for members, \$24.95 for spouse or guest, and \$29.95 for nonmembers. Prices increase after today.

NEW YEARS AT OKUMA: Spend New Year's Eve at Okuma with great live entertainment including fireworks, giveaways, karaoke, free babysitting, and live music. Purchase tickets at Kadena ITT, located in the Schilling Community Center; \$20 for adults, \$5 for children seven to 16 years and free for children six and under.

NEW YEARS BOWLING: Bowl in the New Year at Emery Lanes 50s theme night from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Purchase a package before Dec. 27 for \$75 to include your own lane for the night, all the bowling you can bowl, shoe rental, party favors, champagne or sparkling cider, and more, for up to a party of five.

Thursday

PARENT EMPOWERMENT POTLUCK: The Kadena Services' Youth Programs is sponsoring a series of parent education work-

shops that will offer simple, hands-on advice to be a more effective and less frustrated parent from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kadena Youth Center.

TAI CHI CH'UAN: For ages 18 years and up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY: Adult class from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

SALSA DANCE LESSONS: Learn the basics of Salsa Dance in the free weekly classes in the Weekender Lounge of the Kadena Officers Club from 7 to 9 p.m. Open to Officers' club members only.

JAPANESE CONVERSATION: Adults can make friends with Okinawan neighbors by learning their customs, culture and language from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Call **634-1387**.

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Latin music from 5 to 7 p.m. followed by country night with DJ Mad Chaps until closing.

NEW YEARS EVE (OFFICERS): Enjoy a fabulous New Year's Eve dinner buffet at the Kadena Officers Club in the Kudaka Dining area starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by live entertainment throughout the evening. Tickets purchased today through Dec. 30 will be \$19.95 for members, \$29.95 for spouse or guest, and \$39.95 for nonmembers. Tickets will be sold at the door if any remain.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Ladies night from 8 p.m. until closing.

Dec. 17

RIGHT HAND PERSONS EVENING:

Bring your spouse or co-worker (your right hand person) to the Officers' club Weekender Lounge from 5 to 7 p.m. as a way to say "thank you" for all they do.

C H A P E L

Catholic

- ▲ Monday through Friday: Mass, Chapel 2, noon.
- ▲ Saturday: Confession, Chapel 2, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Vigil Mass, Chapel 2, 5 p.m.
- ▲ Sunday: Mass, Chapel 3, 8:45 a.m.
Mass, Chapel 1, 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant

- ▲ Wednesday: Bible Study, Bldg. 327, 7 p.m.
- ▲ Sunday: Inspirational, Chapel 2, 8:30 a.m.
Liturgical, Chapel 3, 8:45 a.m.
Evangelical, Chapel 1, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
General Protestant, Chapel 2, 10:30 a.m.
Gospel, Chapel 3, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school, Bldg. 326 and Bldg. 327, 10:45 a.m.
- ▲ Hindu service: Mondays, Chapel 1, noon.
- ▲ Eastern Orthodox service: call 645-7486
- ▲ Jewish services: call 637-1027
- ▲ Islamic services: call 636-3219

Dragons burn Bulldogs 8-3 in defensive battle

CAMP COURTNEY — In an Okinawa Football League matchup, which observers deemed “the game of the year,” the Kadena Dragons pulled off an 8-3 victory over the Foster-Futenma Bulldogs at the Courtney Bowl here Nov. 27.

Both squads dominated the gridiron offensively and defensively all season, but the Bulldogs entered the game mired in controversy, having been forced to forfeit five of its six victories for fielding an ineligible player earlier in the season.

On paper, the Dragons had the top-rated offense, scoring 46 points per game, while the Bulldogs held their opponents to about four points per game with their league-leading defense.

The prospect of missing the playoffs after a dominating season didn’t lessen the Bulldogs’ intensity; while the Dragons, having already locked up the number one seed in the playoffs, were playing for a perfect season. It was the teams’ first duel after a previous paring was scrapped because of poor field conditions.

“We were playing the hungrier team,” said Dragons head coach William Cupp. “They gave us the best game we’ve had all season. The score is indicative of that.”

Offensive jitters showed early for both teams as the Bulldogs fumbled the ball on the first play from scrimmage. The Dragons recovered just 10 yards from the end zone but were stuffed on four consecutive downs by a swarming Bulldogs’ defense, a style of play they kept up for all but one crucial Dragon possession.

With their offense unable to muster much in the way of forward progress, the Dragon defense took up the challenge and forced a Bulldog punt, which was promptly fumbled during their punt return. The Bulldogs recovered at the Kadena 45-yard line.

A first-quarter battle of punts, interceptions and fumbles raged as both hard-hitting defenses contin-



Kadena Dragons' quarterback Paul Robinson runs for a first down in the fourth quarter during the Dragons' 8-3 victory over the Foster-Futenma Bulldogs at the Courtney Bowl Nov. 27. The Dragons have the top-rated offense on paper, but had to forfeit five of their six victories for fielding an ineligible player earlier in the season.

Marine Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

ued forcing turnovers that led to a complete lack of scoreboard activity.

Later, another Dragon punt return fumble, recovered by linebacker Jimmy Hill, put the Bulldogs in their best field position of the day at the 8-yard line.

The Bulldog offense was unable to punch in for six and was forced to settle for a field goal. Kicker David Carroll's right leg came through from 25 yards out, giving the Bulldogs a 3-0 lead.

Both defenses continued their helmet-popping tackling, while the Bulldogs maintained a three-nil lead into the half.

The teams picked up in the third quarter right where they left off at the half, but added strings of penalties to their punts and turnovers, so the offenses actually lost yards.

Early in the fourth quarter however, Dragons'

stars, Paul Robinson and running back Trent Beavers, returned to their usual, dominating form during a 67-yard scoring drive.

Beavers and quarterback Paul Robinson had crucial, first-down runs that led to Robinson hooking up with wide receiver Christopher Clarke on a 26-yard completion at the Bulldogs' 15-yard line.

On fourth down, it was “Here’s to you Mr. Robinson,” as Robinson connected with John Robinson on a fade route in the right corner of the end zone for the score.

A successful two-point conversion put the Dragons up 8-3 to give them the win.

“We have the best defense on the island when it comes to holding down a team’s point total,” said Bulldogs coach Lee Mew. “We knew the play they were going to call, but they made a good catch, and that can’t be taken away from them.”



A friendly game of hoops

Col. Brent Baker, 18th Mission Support Group commander, goes in for a lay up during the second annual Friendship Basketball Tournament at the Risner Fitness Center Dec. 4. More than 65 Japanese players who competed in four games promoting friendship between Kadena and surrounding communities. The teams consisted of 18th Mission Support Group Airmen, and Okinawan teams from Chatan Town, Kadena Town, and Okinawa City. Kadena was the overall winner.

FLAG FOOTBALL STANDINGS

Division I-A	W	L
18th CES (A)	5	0
18th CS	4	1
18th AMXS	3	2
18th EMS	3	2
18th LRS	0	5
718th AMXS	0	5
Division I-B	W	L
18th CMS	5	0
18th MUNS	4	1
18th SVS	3	3
733rd AMS	3	2
18th SFS	2	3
18th CES (B)	0	6
Division II	W	L
353rd MXS	4	1
18th DS/AMDS	4	1
18th MOS	3	2
961st AACs	2	3
18th OSS	2	3
353rd OSS	0	5

Information last updated Dec. 1 by 18th Services Squadron.